

*Civilisation and Races of Southern
Italy* 397

Of Sicily another tale may be told. In
Palermo,
Messina, and elsewhere the Moslem
emirs had
built without apprehension in the
open country
their pleasant villas; their Norman
successors
imitated them and thus we possess of
Roger and
the two Williams the noble Oriental
palaces of
Favara, La Zisa, and La Cuba.,

It is in Sicily, mainly a Moslem
island when
the Normans entered it, that we see
the art of
Arab, Greek, and Latin blended most
completely.

At Cefalu, at Monreale, in the Cappella
Palatina

one fancies a Norman or Italian
architect directing
the general plan to the command of the
Hauteville

King; the general aspect is Norman, but
the mosaic

and bronze work show the hand of
other races;

Arab and Greek artists have been called
in to beau-

tify the interior, to paint the roof and
walls, to deck

with a blaze of colour and splendour
what in the

north would have remained stately
but austere,

At S. Giovanni degli Eremiti at
Palermo, again,

though the plan is that of a Latin
cross, at least

the Oriental domes show that Moslem
architects

have been given a free hand in part of
the building.

It is indeed a foundation of Roger's
grandson

William the Good that shows the most
imposing

example of the blended and gorgeous
architecture
of Norman Sicily; the cathedral of
Monreale,
founded in 1174, with its noble
bronze doors,
its grand western towers of Gothic
style, its
eighty thousand square feet of golden
mosaics,
on part of which the two Williams,
clad in the